Archie 65TH ANNIVERSARY

THE WAY PAST "X"-CELLENT COMIC!

YOU'RE FIRED!!

#22

$2.25 US

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SONIC X™

DIRECT EDITION

IT'S JUST A TYPICAL DAY ON EARTH, NOW THAT SUPER FAST **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** LIVES HERE. EVER SINCE HE, HIS FRIENDS, AND HIS ARCH-ENEMY **DOCTOR EGGMAN** ARRIVED IN STATION SQUARE, EVERY DAY EGGMAN TRIES TO CONQUER THE PLANET AND EVERY DAY SONIC STOPS HIM. TODAY, DR. EGGMAN IS ATTACKING **AREA 99**, A SECRET GOVERNMENT BASE WHERE ALIEN ARTIFACTS ARE STUDIED.

DECOE AND BOCOE'S not-so-excellent MISADVENTURE

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BEETLE SHIPS ONE AND TWO...GO HIGH. I'LL HANDLE THINGS FROM DOWN HERE.
RRREWWW
CLANG
WE'LL SWAT THOSE BEETLE SHIPS OUT OF THE SKY LIKE THE BUGS THEY ARE!
DECOE... BOCOE... PREPARE TO FIRE THE LASER CANNON!
YES, SIR, DOCTOR EGG-MAN, SIR!
THIS ROBOT HAS A LASER CANNON?
WHICH BUTTON SHOULD WE PRESS, BOCOE?
I DON'T KNOW, DECOE.
STOP LOLLY-GAGGING... AND FIRE!
HERE GOES NOTHING!
PRESS

I DIDN'T SEE *THIS* COMING.

HA! MY PLAN WORKED!

YOU METALLIC MORONS! WHY DID YOU PRESS *THAT* BUTTON?!

SORRY, DOCTOR EGGMAN!

WE'D BETTER BEAT FEET OUTTA HERE!

WON'T THAT BE DIFFICULT WITHOUT OUR LEGS?

SHHHH, BOCOE! DON'T MAKE HIM MADDER!

THESE DISCARDED LIMBS MAY PROVIDE US WITH EXPLOITABLE TECHNOLOGY!

÷SIGH÷ WE'VE HEARD *THAT ONE* BEFORE...

DOCTOR EGGMAN RETURNS TO HIS EGG CARRIER, THAT IS HIDDEN IN A FIELD JUST OUTSIDE OF STATION SQUARE...

YOU BUMBLING 'BOTS HAVE RUINED MY PLANS FOR THE LAST TIME!

?

BUT DR. EGGMAN, THE BUTTONS WEREN'T LABELED.

BESIDES--WHY WOULD YOU HAVE A BUTTON THAT WOULD MAKE THE ROBOT'S ARMS AND LEGS FALL OFF?

YOU DARE QUESTION *ME*--YOUR CREATOR?

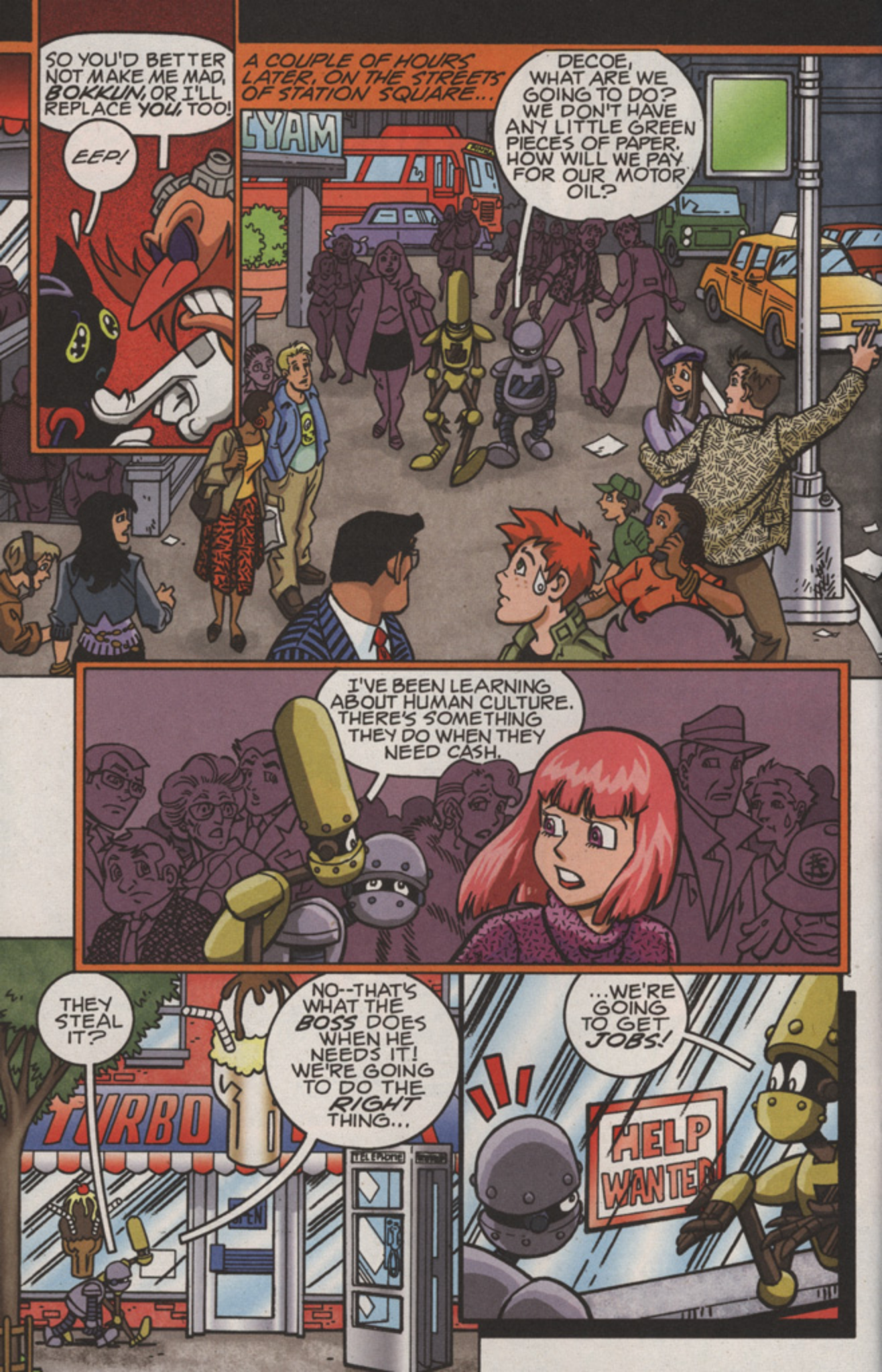
THAT DOES IT!

YOU'RE *FIRED!*

I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR RUSTY FACES AGAIN, DECOE AND BOCOE...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, DOCTOR EGGMAN?

I'M GOING TO BUILD *BIGGER, BADDER BETTER ROBOTS* WHO WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS!


SO YOU'D BETTER NOT MAKE ME MAD, BOKKUN, OR I'LL REPLACE YOU, TOO!
EEP!
A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER, ON THE STREETS OF STATION SQUARE...
DECOE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE DON'T HAVE ANY LITTLE GREEN PIECES OF PAPER. HOW WILL WE PAY FOR OUR MOTOR OIL?
I'VE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT HUMAN CULTURE. THERE'S SOMETHING THEY DO WHEN THEY NEED CASH.
THEY STEAL IT?
NO--THAT'S WHAT THE BOSS DOES WHEN HE NEEDS IT! WE'RE GOING TO DO THE RIGHT THING...
...WE'RE GOING TO GET JOBS!
HELP WANTED

PEACEFUL DAYS PASS ON THE EGG CARRIER AS DOCTOR EGGMAN WORKS HAPPILY ON HIS NEW ROBOTS.

DOO DEE DOO DEE LA LA LA!

...HE SINGS AND DANCES. I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS BEFORE!

IS HE SICK?

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF HE WAS...

ENOUGH ABOUT DR. EGGMAN. WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS? HOW ARE YOU?

WE'RE FINE, BOKKUN. BOCOE AND I START OUR NEW JOBS TODAY!

BOKKUN! COME HERE!

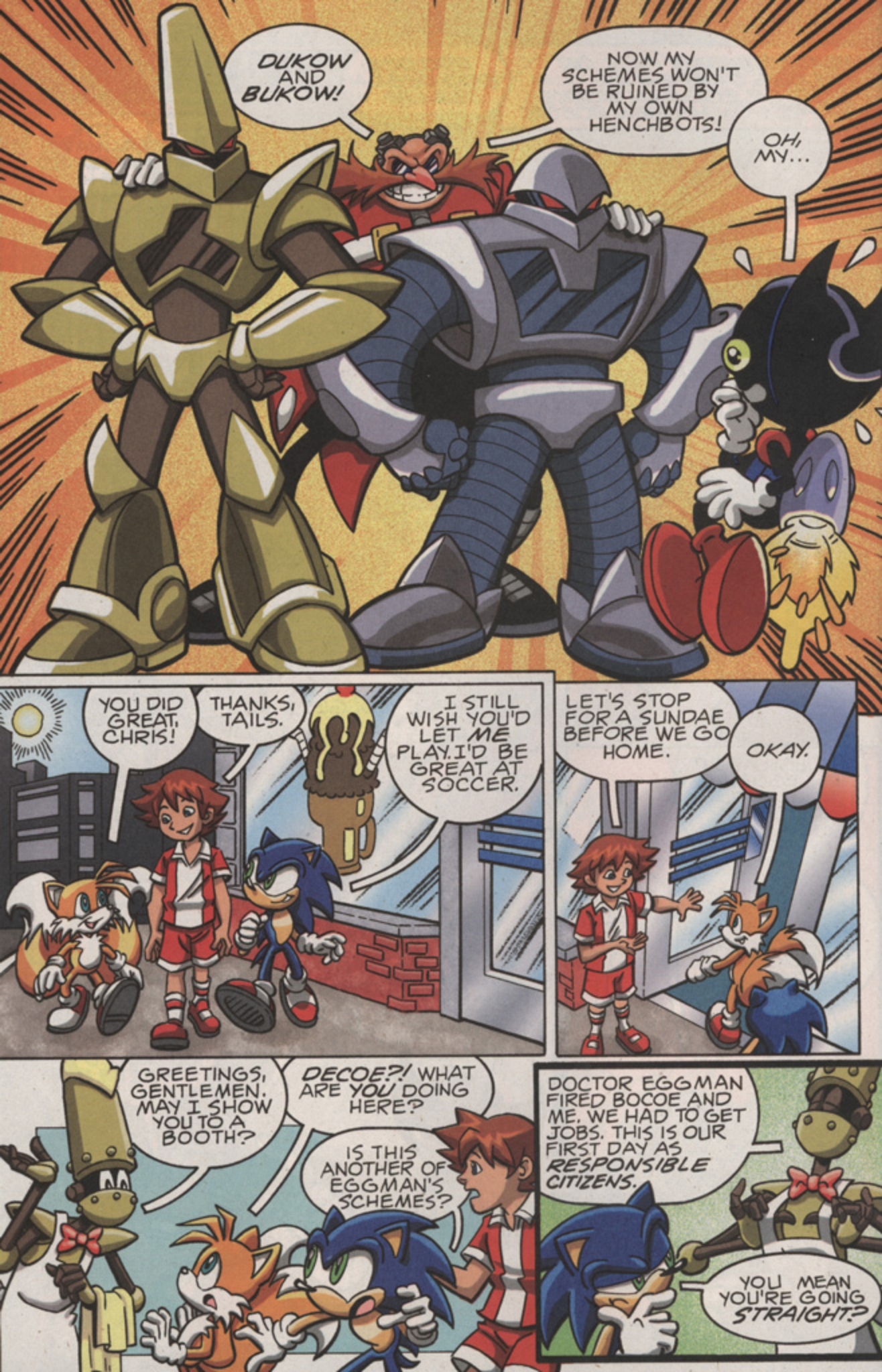
I GOTTA GO, GUYS!

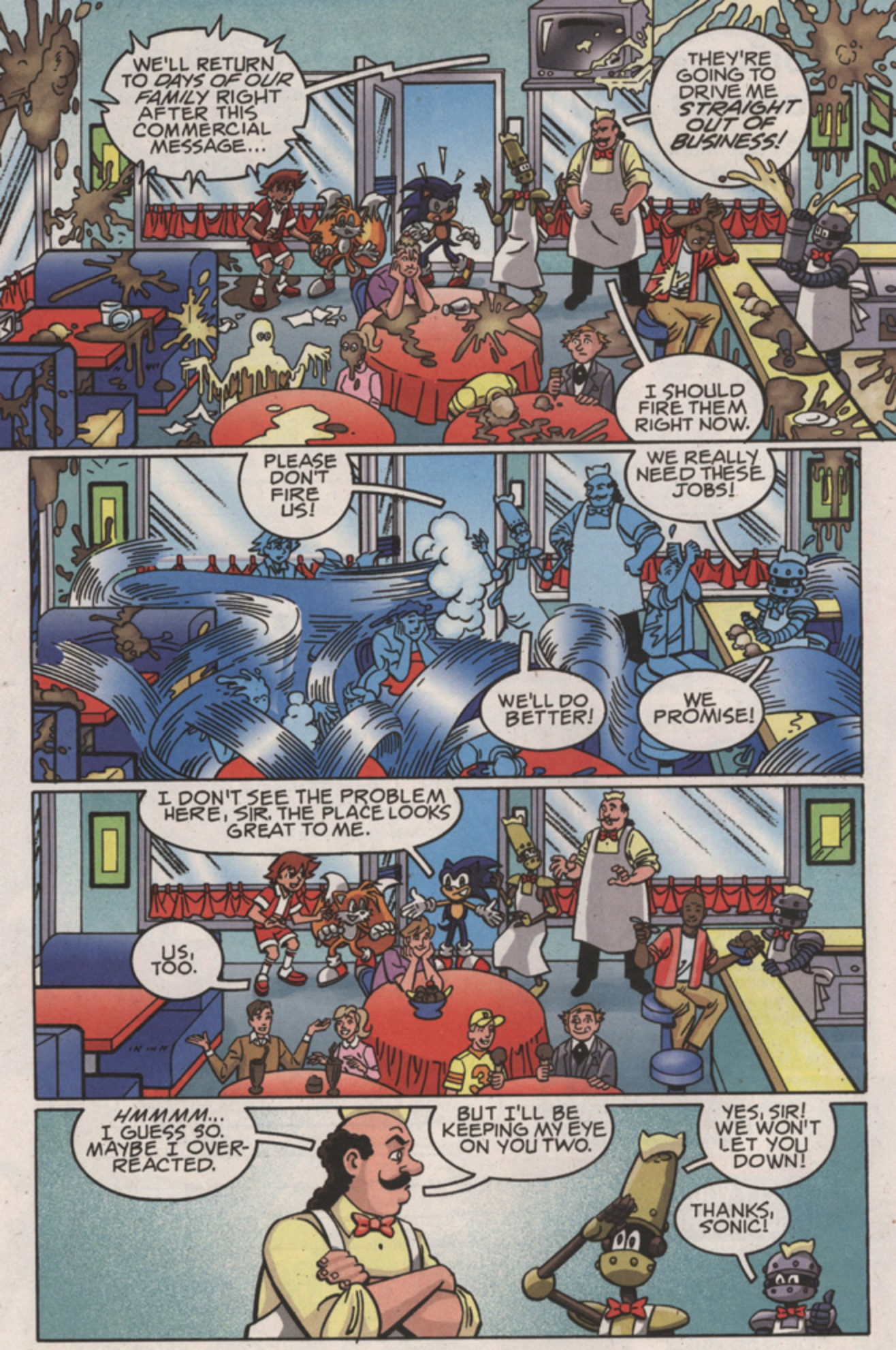
BOKKUN--WERE YOU ORDERING ANOTHER DOZEN CHEESECAKES?

NO, DOCTOR EGGMAN! I PROMISE!

YOU'D BETTER NOT!

NOW COME WITH ME. THERE'S SOMEONE YOU SHOULD MEET...


DUKOW AND BUKOW!
NOW MY SCHEMES WON'T BE RUINED BY MY OWN HENCHBOTS!
OH, MY...
YOU DID GREAT, CHRIS!
THANKS, TAILS.
I STILL WISH YOU'D LET ME PLAY. I'D BE GREAT AT SOCCER.
LET'S STOP FOR A SUNDAE BEFORE WE GO HOME.
OKAY.
GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN. MAY I SHOW YOU TO A BOOTH?
DECOE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IS THIS ANOTHER OF EGGMAN'S SCHEMES?
DOCTOR EGGMAN FIRED BOCOE AND ME. WE HAD TO GET JOBS. THIS IS OUR FIRST DAY AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING STRAIGHT?


WE'LL RETURN TO DAYS OF OUR FAMILY RIGHT AFTER THIS COMMERCIAL MESSAGE...
THEY'RE GOING TO DRIVE ME STRAIGHT OUT OF BUSINESS!
I SHOULD FIRE THEM RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE DON'T FIRE US!
WE REALLY NEED THESE JOBS!
WE'LL DO BETTER!
WE PROMISE!
I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM HERE, SIR. THE PLACE LOOKS GREAT TO ME.
US, TOO.
HMMMM... I GUESS SO. MAYBE I OVER-REACTED.
BUT I'LL BE KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU TWO.
YES, SIR! WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN!
THANKS, SONIC!

WHAT CAN I GET YOU GUYS?

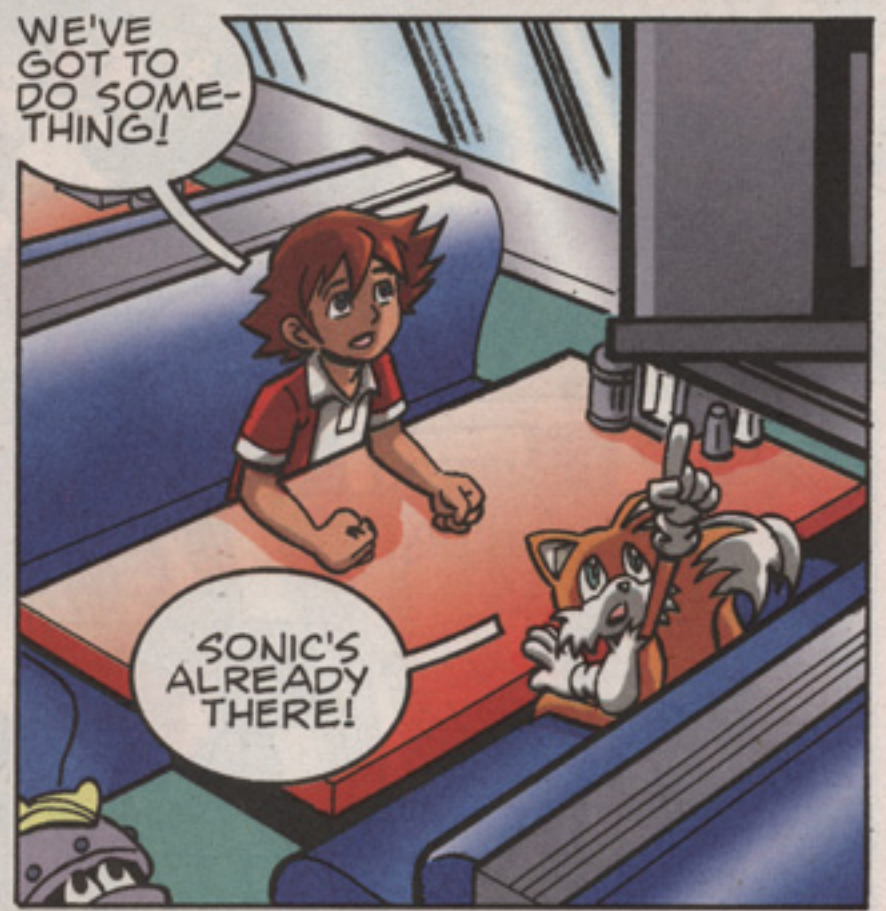
SPECIAL REPORT

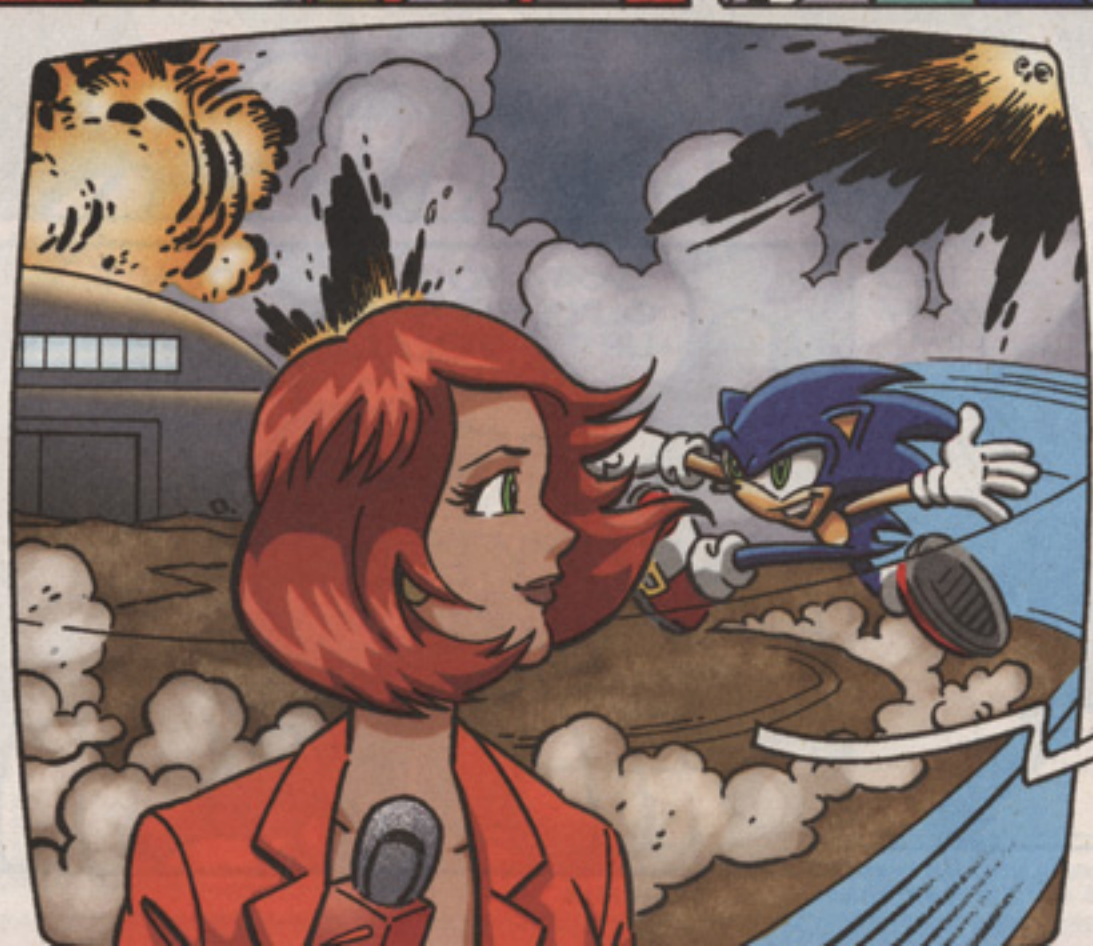
WE INTERRUPT YOUR REGULARLY-SCHEDULED COMMERCIALS FOR A SPECIAL REPORT!

THIS IS SCARLET GARCIA REPORTING FROM THE PERIMETER OF AREA 99...

...THE GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION IS UNDER ATTACK AGAIN!

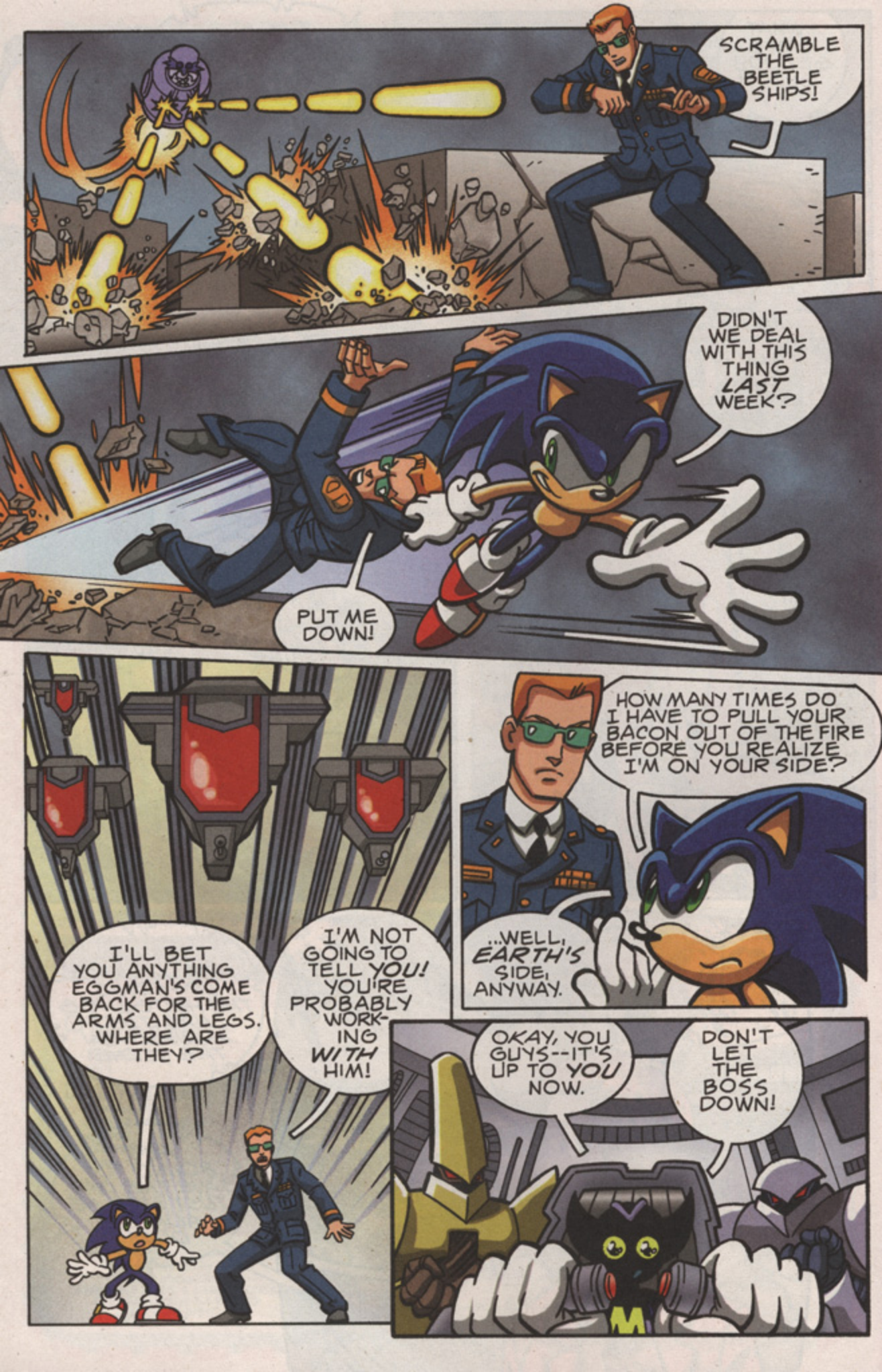
IT LOOKS LIKE DR. EGGMAN IS BACK!

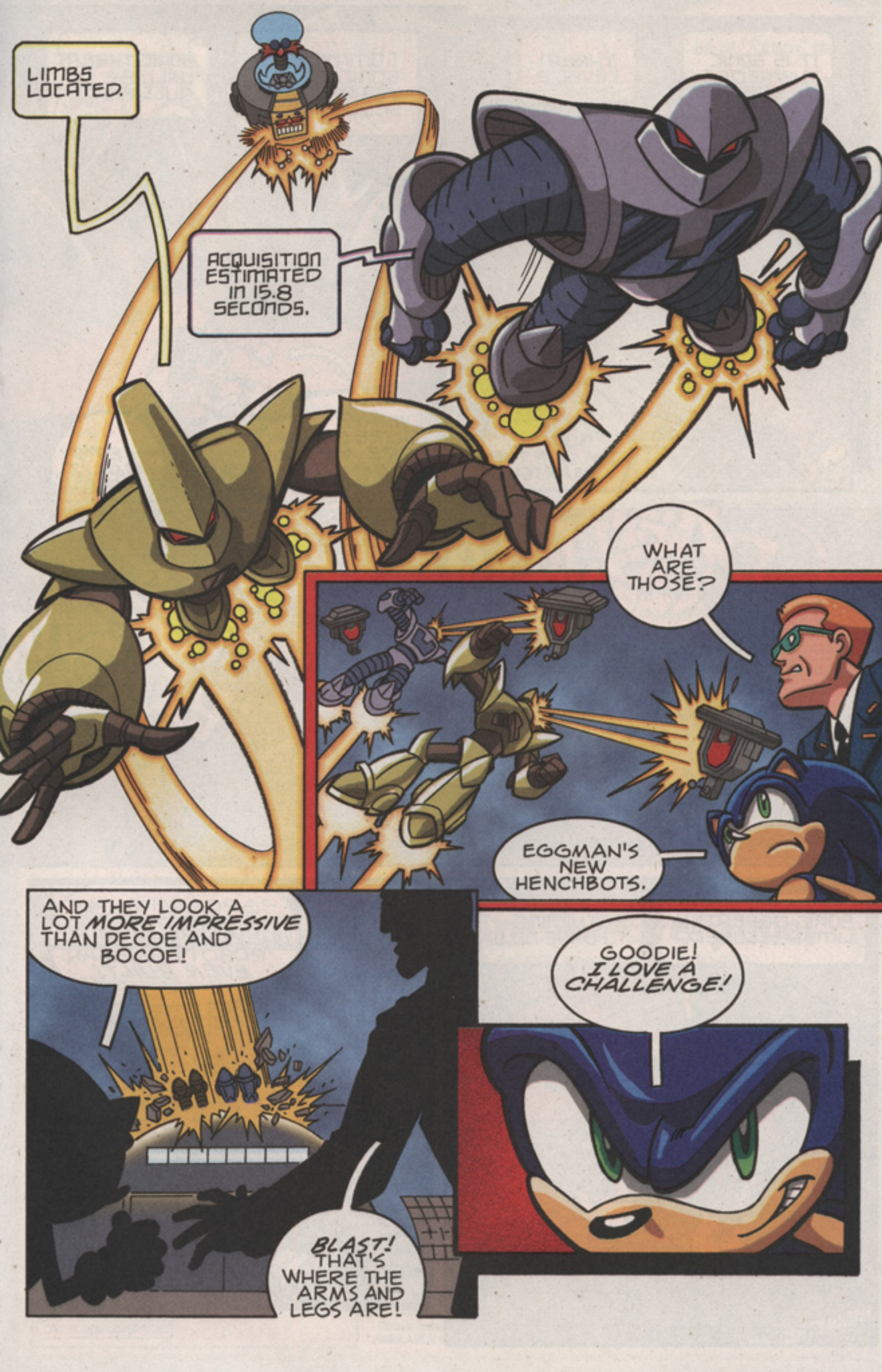




THINGS ARE LOOKING UP--SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HAS JUST ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

HE'S BOUND TO SAVE THE DAY, JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.


SCRAMBLE THE BEETLE SHIPS!
DIDN'T WE DEAL WITH THIS THING LAST WEEK?
PUT ME DOWN!
I'LL BET YOU ANYTHING EGGMAN'S COME BACK FOR THE ARMS AND LEGS. WHERE ARE THEY?
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU! YOU'RE PROBABLY WORKING WITH HIM!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO PULL YOUR BACON OUT OF THE FIRE BEFORE YOU REALIZE I'M ON YOUR SIDE?
...WELL, EARTH'S SIDE, ANYWAY.
OKAY, YOU GUYS--IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
DON'T LET THE BOSS DOWN!


LIMBS LOCATED.
ACQUISITION ESTIMATED IN 15.8 SECONDS.
WHAT ARE THOSE?
EGGMAN'S NEW HENCHBOTS.
AND THEY LOOK A LOT *MORE IMPRESSIVE* THAN DECOE AND BOCOE!
BLAST! THAT'S WHERE THE ARMS AND LEGS ARE!
GOODIE! *I LOVE A CHALLENGE!*

IT IS SONIC THE HEDGE-HOG.
THREAT LEVEL 2.
"2?" "2?" BUDDY, I'M OFF THE CHARTS!
COMMENCE SONIC INCAPACITATION SEQUENCE.
SONIC THREAT WILL BE NULLIFIED.
WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA BORE ME TO SLEEP WITH LONG WORDS?
LET'S MIX IT UP!
CRASH!
WHAM!
BOOM!
SONIC DEFEATED. LIMBS SECURED.
RETURNING TO BASE NOW.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
-GROAN!- THOSE ARE THE TOUGHEST ROBOTS EGGMAN EVER BUILT!

SHORTLY, BACK AT THE EGG CARRIER...

YOU HAVE DONE WELL-- BETTER THAN DECOE AND BOCOE EVER DID!

WE HAVE CALCULATED YOUR SUCCESS PROBABILITY TO 2.468 DECIMAL POINTS.

THE LIKELIHOOD OF YOUR PLANS SUCCESS IS INCREASED EXPONENTIALLY IF YOU ARE REMOVED FROM THE EQUATION.

WHAT?

IF THE EARTH IS TO BE CONQUERED...

...THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION IS THAT YOU MUST BE INCARCERATED SO THAT WE MAY SUCCEED.

WE ARE OUR OWN MASTERS!

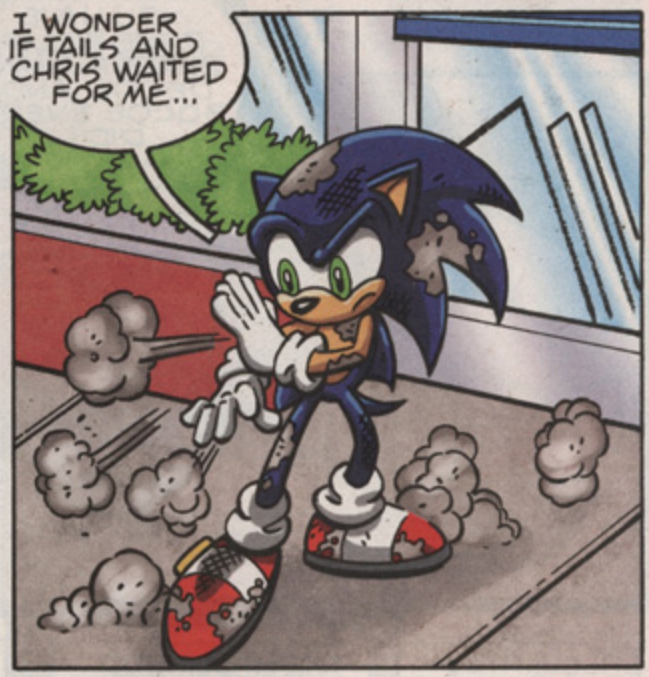
UNHAND ME! I AM YOUR MASTER!

WE WILL SUCCEED WHERE YOU HAVE FAILED!

LET GO! THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT YOUR BELOVED MASTER!

I'VE GOTTA GET HELP!

LATER...
LET ME OUT OF HERE!


I WONDER IF TAILS AND CHRIS WAITED FOR ME...

SONIC! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU LOOK AWFUL!
I LOOK AWFUL? I WASN'T GONE THAT LONG...

...THIS PLACE LOOKS WORSE THAN AREA 99!
DECOE AND BOCOE MUST BE ALMOST AS FAST AS I AM!
SOB!
THERE, THERE!

WE'LL HAVE THIS PLACE CLEANED UP IN A WEEK.
TWO AT THE MOST.
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU TWO AGAIN!

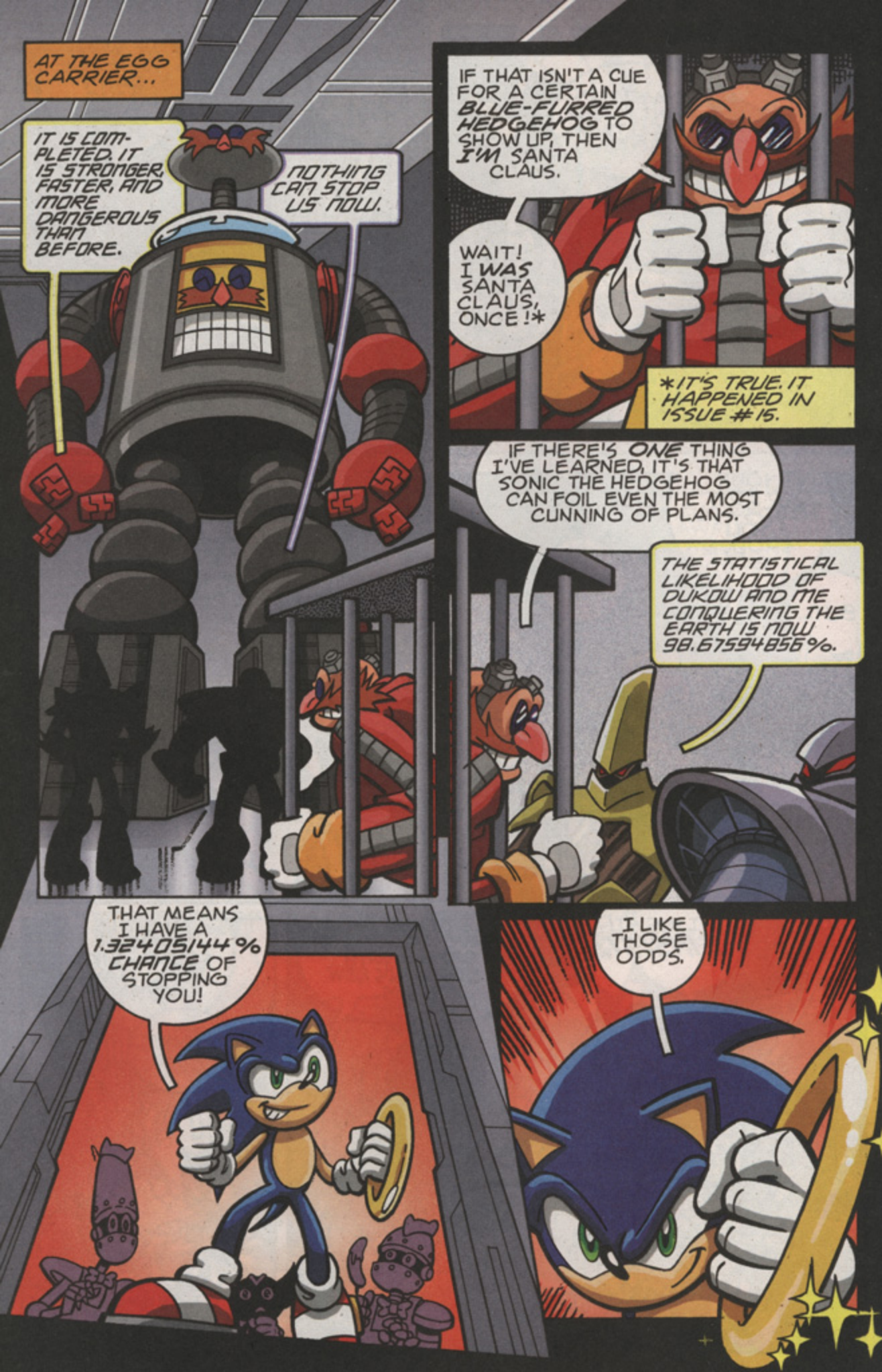
DECOE! BOCOE! THE BOSS NEEDS YOU!
DOCTOR EGGMAN IS NO LONGER OUR BOSS.
WE WORK HERE. WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR JOBS.

IF YOUR OLD BOSS NEEDS YOU, YOU SHOULD GO!
BUT...
BUT...

PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU!
JUST GO!

IF YOU INSIST.
I INSIST! I INSIST!
I'LL COME, TOO. I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH EGGMAN'S NEW 'BOTS.

TAKE THIS, SONIC. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU MAY NEED IT.
THANKS, TAILS!


AT THE EGG CARRIER...
IT IS COMPLETED. IT IS STRONGER, FASTER, AND MORE DANGEROUS THAN BEFORE.
NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW.
IF THAT ISN'T A CUE FOR A CERTAIN BLUE-FURRED HEDGEHOG TO SHOW UP, THEN I'M SANTA CLAUS.
WAIT! I WAS SANTA CLAUS, ONCE!*
*IT'S TRUE. IT HAPPENED IN ISSUE #15.
IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED, IT'S THAT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG CAN FOIL EVEN THE MOST CUNNING OF PLANS.
THE STATISTICAL LIKELIHOOD OF DUKOW AND ME CONQUERING THE EARTH IS NOW 98.67594856%.
THAT MEANS I HAVE A 1.32405144% CHANCE OF STOPPING YOU!
I LIKE THOSE ODDS.

WHILE SONIC DISTRACTS DUKOW AND BUKOW, WE MUST FREE DR. EGG-MAN.

YOU MADE ME DROP MY FROZEN BANANA!

K-THUNK

YES, THE RING THAT THE TWIN-TAILED FOX GAVE YOU AMPLIFIES YOUR STRENGTH.

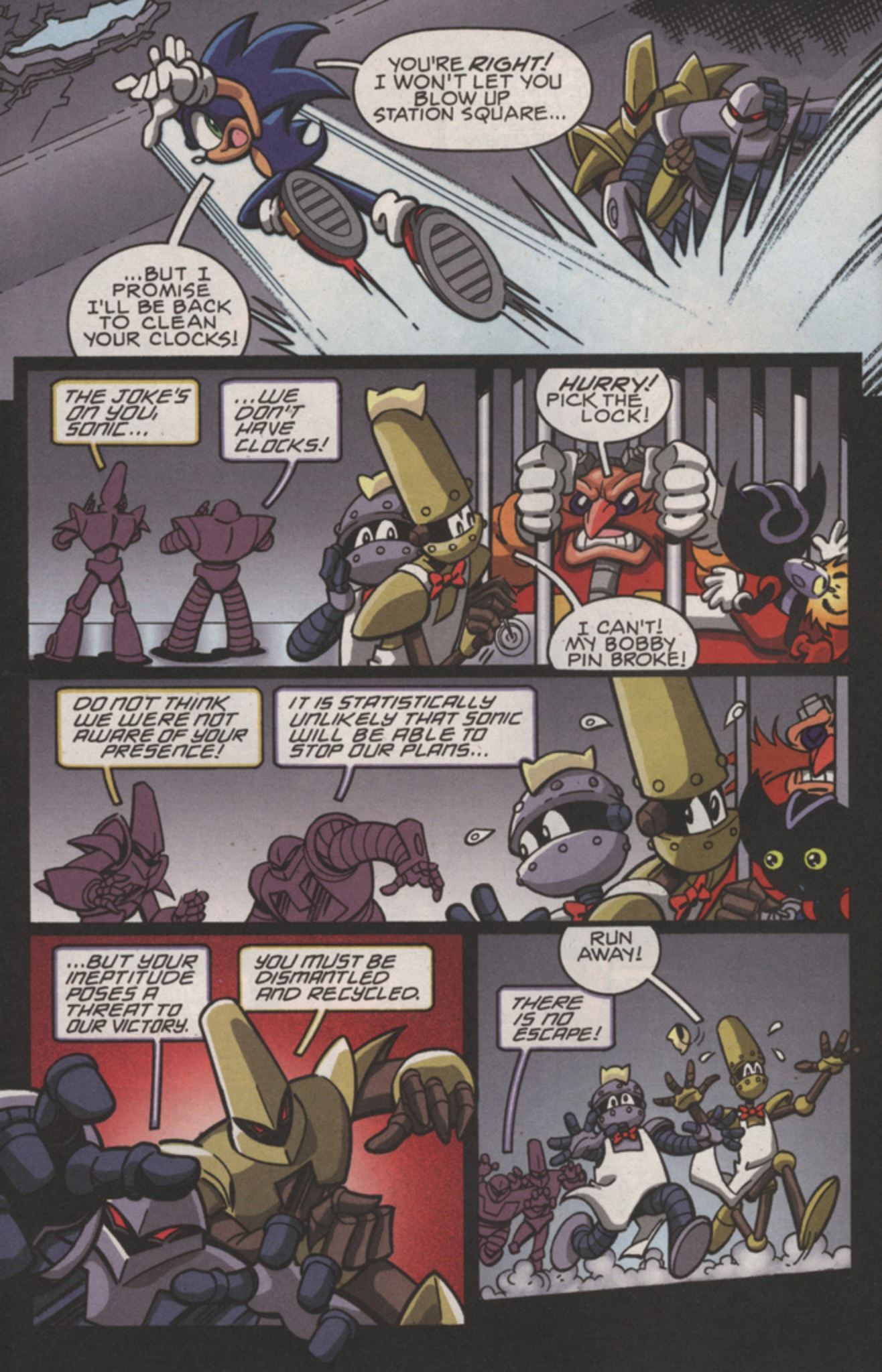
IT MAY EVEN GIVE YOU AN EDGE AGAINST MY BROTHER AND ME IN THE SHORT TERM.

BUT BUKOW AND I HAVE TRANSFORMED EGGMAN'S ROBOT INTO A DEADLY MISSILE THAT IS AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE HEART OF STATION SQUARE.

WE HAVE COMPUTED THAT YOU WILL NOT ALLOW STATION SQUARE TO BE DESTROYED BY A MASSIVE EXPLOSION...

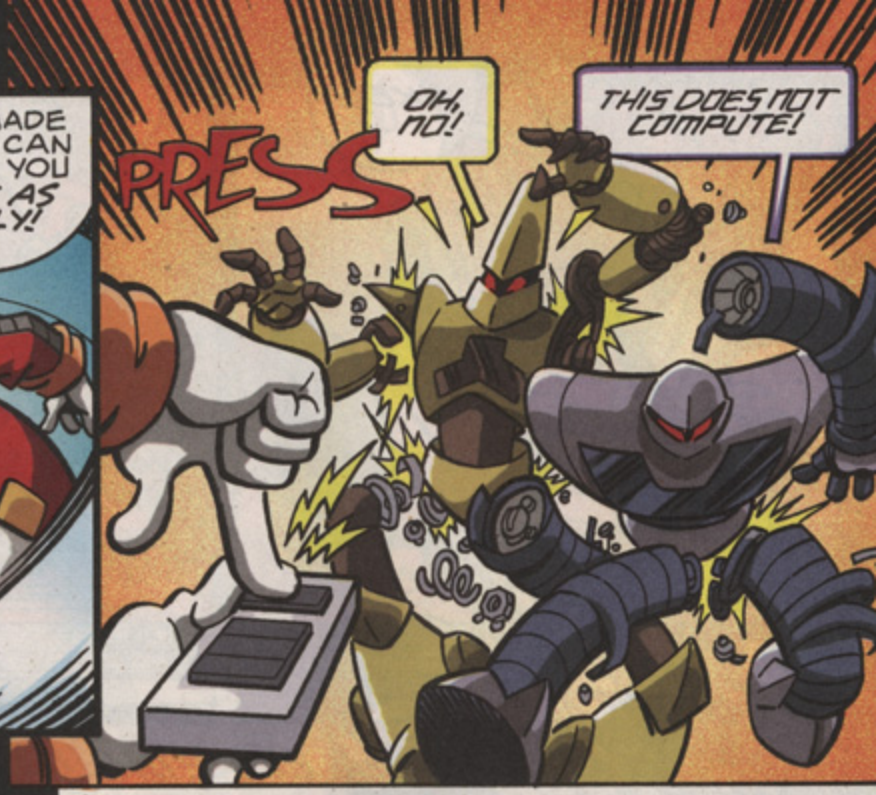
...AND WHILE YOU SAVE THE CITY, DUKOW AND I WILL COMPLETE OUR WORLD-CONQUERING MISSION!

WE MIGHT LAUGH MANIACALLY NOW, EXCEPT WE WEREN'T PRO-GRAMMED TO DO SO!

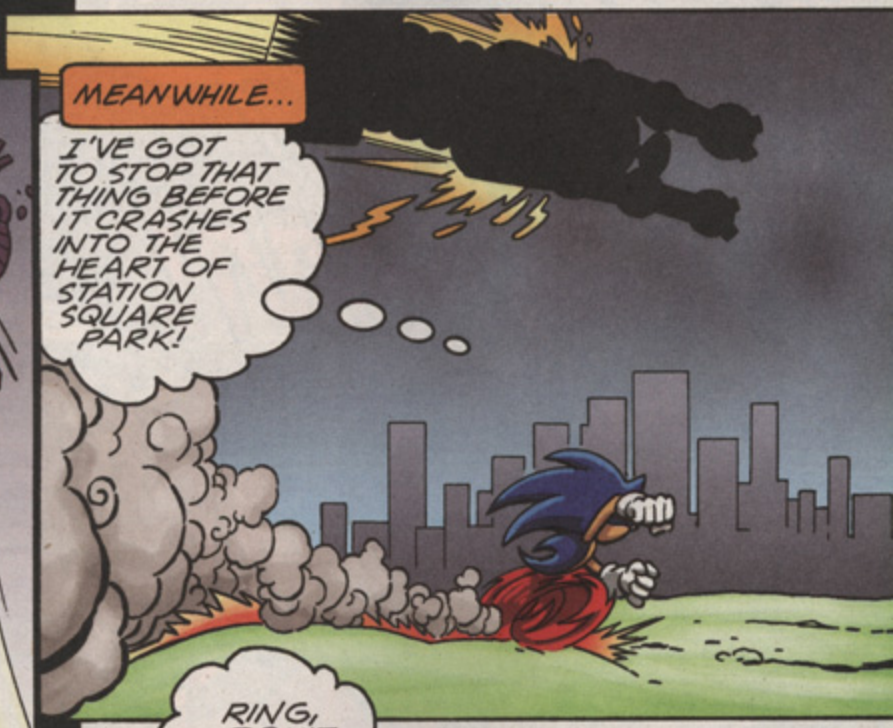

YOU'RE RIGHT! I WON'T LET YOU BLOW UP STATION SQUARE...
...BUT I PROMISE I'LL BE BACK TO CLEAN YOUR CLOCKS!
THE JOKE'S ON YOU, SONIC...
...WE DON'T HAVE CLOCKS!
HURRY! PICK THE LOCK!
I CAN'T! MY BOBBY PIN BROKE!
DO NOT THINK WE WERE NOT AWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE!
IT IS STATISTICALLY UNLIKELY THAT SONIC WILL BE ABLE TO STOP OUR PLANS...
...BUT YOUR INEPTITUDE POSES A THREAT TO OUR VICTORY.
YOU MUST BE DISMANTLED AND RECYCLED.
RUN AWAY!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

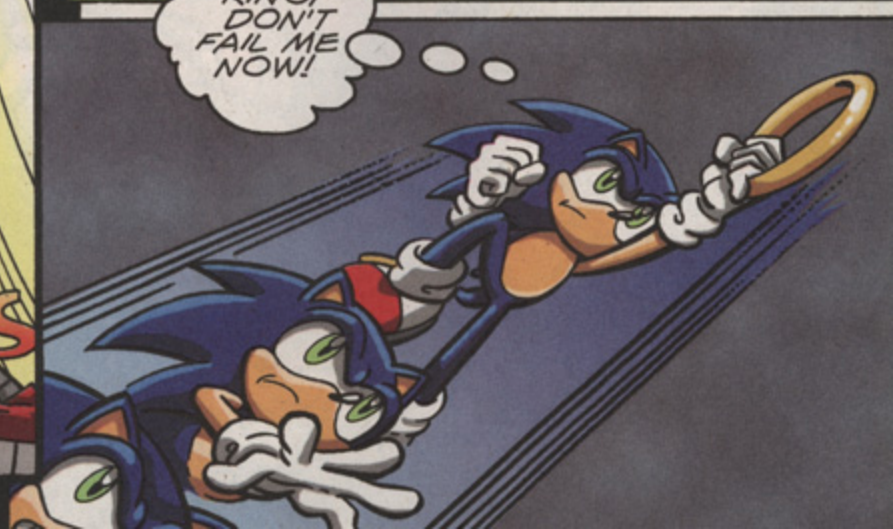
YIKES!
WHOA WHOA! WHOA WHOA!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
EEEEIIIII!
HAHA! I'M FREE!
BOOOM!
POW!
BOKKUN, TOSS ME THE REMOTE!
HERE IT IS, DOCTOR EGGMAN!

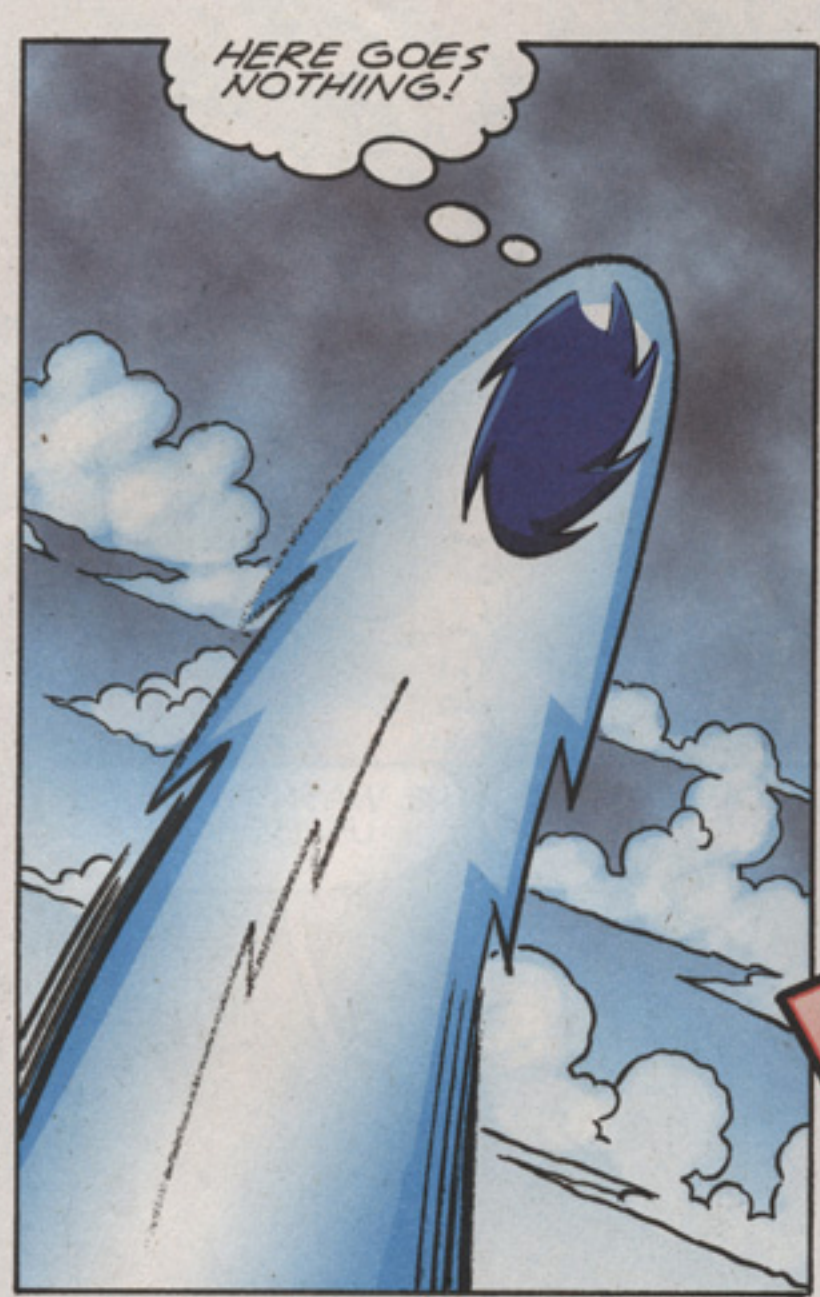
YOU FORGOT TO CALCULATE ONE THING IN YOUR PLAN...
...I MADE YOU. I CAN BREAK YOU JUST AS EASILY!

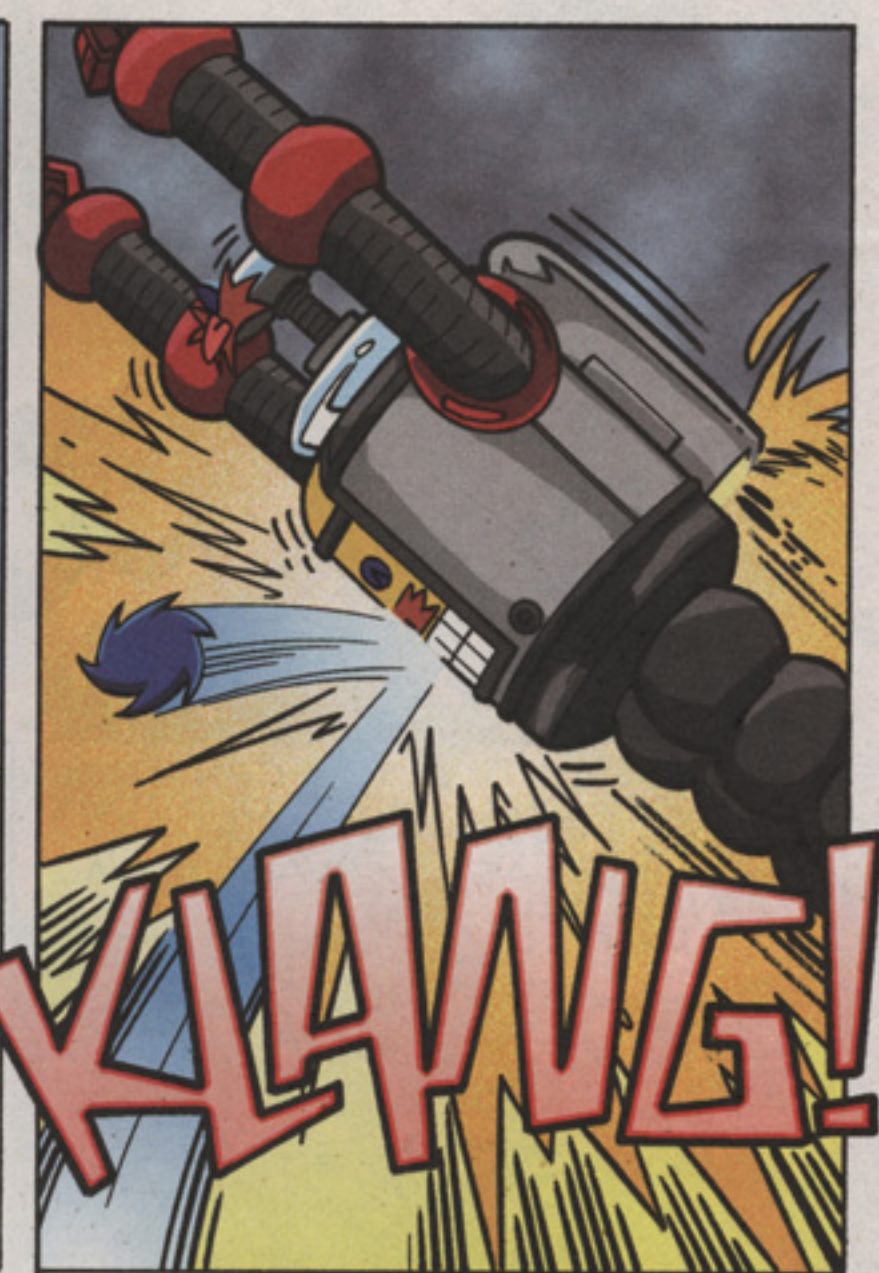

PRESS
OH, NO!
THIS DOES NOT COMPUTE!

THEN I HAVE THIS LITTLE BUTTON, TOO.
PRESS

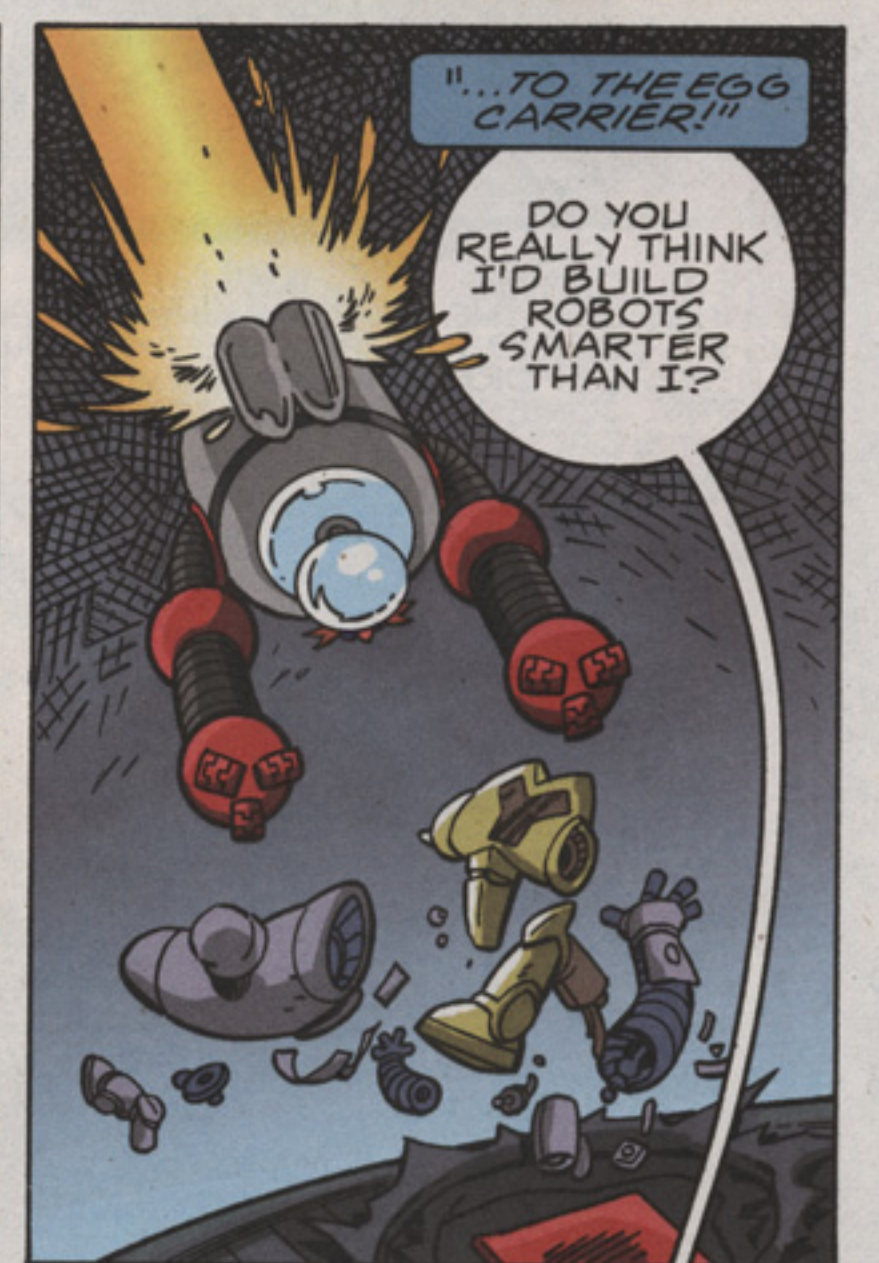

MEANWHILE...
I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT THING BEFORE IT CRASHES INTO THE HEART OF STATION SQUARE PARK!


RING, DON'T FAIL ME NOW!


HERE GOES NOTHING!


KLANG!

BONUS! IT'S HEADING RIGHT BACK...


"...TO THE EGG CARRIER!"
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D BUILD ROBOTS SMARTER THAN I?

BOOOOOOOOOOM!

FOR ONCE, YOUR HOPELESS BUNGLING HAS SAVED THE DAY.

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR OLD JOBS BACK, IF YOU WANT THEM...

FOR *LESS PAY*, OF COURSE.

HOW CAN HE PAY US LESS?

HE WASN'T PAYING US BEFORE!

WONDER IF HE HAS A REMOTE THAT WILL MAKE US LOSE OUR ARMS AND LEGS?

COME, MY TIN-PLATED TOADIES. WE MUST GET THE EGG-CARRIER OUT OF HERE BEFORE SONIC COMES BACK!

WE'LL FIND SOMEWHERE NEW TO HIDE AND MAKE REPAIRS WHILE I CREATE MY NEXT EVIL SCHEME!

HA HA HA HA HA!

NEXT IN *SONIC X # 23*, A GROUP OF MYSTERIOUS NEW ADVERSARIES SHOW UP TARGETING SONIC FOR *X-TERMINATION!* LOOK FOR MORE SONIC ADVENTURE IN *SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #177* AND CLASSIC ACTION IN *SONIC ARCHIVES VOLUMES 1, 2, 3 AND 4* ON SALE NOW!

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